



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jewel Cave
National Monument

11149 US Hwy 16
Building B12
Custer, SD 57730
605-673-8300 phone
605-673-8397 fax

Jewel Cave National Monument News Release

Release Date: **February 28, 2012**

For Immediate Release

Contact: **Bradley Block / Chief of Interpretation / bradley_block@nps.gov**

Jewel Cave National Monument Re-Opens Cave for Tours

Custer – Jewel Cave National Monument has re-opened the cave for interpretive tours, after about three weeks of temporary closure. The elevator maintenance project was completed on Monday, February 27, and cave tours resumed the following day.

Superintendent Larry Johnson states, “We are excited to open the cave resource once again and allow visitors the chance to witness the second longest cave in the world. Although there is no good time to close a public resource, we felt that the month of February would be best for the scheduled elevator maintenance. We believe the improvements that were made will result in safer and more reliable elevators.”

Jewel Cave offers two different types of public tours during the winter season. The ever popular Scenic Cave Tour is offered twice each day, at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. This one hour and 20-minute tour takes visitors along a one-half mile paved path that includes 723 stair steps. This tour is considered moderate to strenuous. The Discovery Tour is a 20-minute interpretive talk that exposes visitors to the cave resource; this tour is offered three times daily, at 9:05 a.m., 12:45 p.m., and 3:45 p.m.

Johnson further comments, “As the spring season approaches and we prepare for school groups and related environmental education programs, it is a great feeling to know that our elevators have been serviced and are ready for visitors.” Even during the winter season, reservations are strongly recommended and can be made up to seven days in advance.

Jewel Cave National Monument is open daily during the winter months from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To learn more about the Monument or to make a tour reservation, call the visitor center at 605-673-8300 and select Option 1. The Monument can also be visited online at www.nps.gov/jeca.

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America’s 395 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.